

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

1 A multi-use assay system accurately docks a removable test strip supporting a  
reagent-analyte reaction with an optics system including an LED, photodetector, and lenses  
or light pipes for directing light to and from the test strip. Docking is achieved using  
alignment fixturing, whereby an optics block holder is relied upon to align the test strip and  
5 test pad with the various optical components. Signals from the photodetector indicative of  
test strip reaction progress are provided to a processor for measuring the analyte.